



4910-06-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2020-0027-N-25]

#### Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, this notice announces that FRA is forwarding the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the information collection and its expected burden. On July 16, 2020, FRA published a notice providing a 60-day period for public comment on the ICR.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed ICR should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to

[www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find the particular ICR by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Hodan Wells, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Office of Railroad Safety, Regulatory Analysis Division,

Federal Railroad Administration, telephone (202) 493-0440, email:  
Hodan.wells@dot.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. *See* 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. On July 16, 2020, FRA published a 60-day notice in the *Federal Register* soliciting comment on the ICR for which it is now seeking OMB approval. *See* 85 FR 43298. FRA received no comments in response to this notice.

Before OMB decides whether to approve these proposed collections of information, it must provide 30 days for public comment. Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b)–(c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); *see also* 60 FR 44978, 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. OMB believes the 30-day notice informs the regulated community to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to digest public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect.

*Comments are invited on the following ICR regarding:* (1) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA’s estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to

enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The summaries below describe the ICR<sup>1</sup> that FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

*Title:* Railroad Safety Appliance Standards.

*OMB Control Number:* 2130-0594.

*Abstract:* The information collection associated with 49 CFR part 231 is used by FRA to promote and enhance the safe placement and securement of safety appliances on modern rail equipment by establishing a process for the review and approval of existing industry standards. In 2011, FRA amended the regulations related to safety appliance arrangements by permitting railroad industry representatives to submit requests for the approval of existing industry standards relating to the safety appliance arrangements on newly constructed railroad cars, locomotives, tenders, or other rail vehicles in lieu of the specific provisions contained in part 231.

*Type of Request:* Extension with change (revised estimates) of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Businesses.

*Form(s):* N/A.

*Respondent Universe:* Railroads/railroad industry representatives/rail labor unions/general public.

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<sup>1</sup> After an internal agency review, FRA adjusts the ICR's total estimated annual responses from 7 responses to 6 responses, consistent with FRA's experience of one response approximately every two months. FRA does not anticipate the filing of any statement of interests under 49 CFR 231.35(b)(2)(iii), thus decreasing the burden hours from 38 hours to 37 hours.

*Frequency of Submission:* On occasion.

*Total Estimated Annual Responses:* 6.

*Total Estimated Annual Burden:* 37 hours.

*Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent:* \$2,849.

Under 44 U.S.C. 3507(a) and 5 CFR 1320.5(b) and 1320.8(b)(3)(vi), FRA informs all interested parties that a respondent is not required to respond to, conduct, or sponsor a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520)

**Brett A. Jortland,**

*Deputy Chief Counsel.*

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